

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 5

By Overbey

A RESOLUTION to honor and recognize Ted Russell for
meritorious service to the citizens of Tennessee.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should salute those citizens who, through their extraordinary efforts, have distinguished themselves as community leaders of whom we can all be proud; and

WHEREAS, one such noteworthy person is Ted Russell, originally of Morristown; and

WHEREAS, born in 1939 to Dal and Mary Russell, Mr. Russell is a leader in his field and, as the owner of several automobile dealerships, serves as a civic and community leader and is a Tennessean of whom we can all be proud; and

WHEREAS, a self-professed gear head, Ted Russell began his career in the auto industry at an early age, rebuilding and repainting a taxi and using the proceeds from the sale to purchase more automobiles; and

WHEREAS, after graduating from Carson Newman College with an accounting degree in 1962, Mr. Russell served as a public housing auditor before following his passion and returning to the world of automobiles; and

WHEREAS, he acquired his first automobile dealership in Newport, the first in a long line of Russell dealerships; Newport Chrysler-Plymouth-Dodge was soon followed by Knoxville Ford, which he purchased in 1971 and moved two years later to its present location on Kingston Pike, and an Atlanta automobile dealership, which he purchased in 1974; and

WHEREAS, proving a dedication to business excellence and a personal commitment to success, Ted Russell soon crafted his Knoxville dealership into the top volume dealership in the Tennessee and Kentucky Ford district, a position which it held for three decades; and

WHEREAS, a leader among his peers, he served in numerous national positions for the Ford Company, including serving as the Chair of the Ford Dealership Advisory Board; and

WHEREAS, in addition to entrepreneurial acumen, Mr. Russell also possesses a deep and abiding appreciation for his community, and his civic leadership is second to none; he has offered his support to many civic organizations, including the Mission of Hope, the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation, the March of Dimes, and the Board of Carson-Newman College, which he led as Chair in 2004 and 2005; under his visionary leadership, Carson-Newman College has embarked on an ambitious project to construct a state-of-the-art facility for business studies; and

WHEREAS, Ted Russell epitomizes the spirit and commitment that are characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Russell is most grateful for the love and companionship he shares with his wife, the former Drama Green; he is a devoted father and the doting grandfather of Ashley, Andrew, Phillip, and Joshua; and

WHEREAS, he and his wife are devout members of the First Baptist Church of Concord, which they have served for many years; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly finds it appropriate to pause in its deliberations to acknowledge and applaud Ted Russell for his dedication to the State of Tennessee and its citizens; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and commend Ted Russell for his meritorious service to his community and to the State of Tennessee and extend to him our best wishes for every future success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.